



FERNS, GRASSES & VINES

Plant Name	Zone	Sun	Part Sun	Shade	Wet	Moist	Dry	G/C
Ferns								
Christmas Fern	3		X	X		X		
Cinnamon Fern	3	X	X	X	X	X		
Hay-scented Fern	3		X	X		X	X	X
Interrupted Fern	4		X	X	X	X		
Lady Fern	4		X	X		X		
Ostrich Fern	3		X	X	X	X		
Royal Fern	3	X	X	X	X	X		
Sensitive Fern	3	X	X	X	X	X		
Grasses								
Bulrushes	3-4	X	X		X			
Bur-Reed	3	X	X		X			
Big Bluestem	3	X				X	X	X
European Dunegrass	4	X					X	X
Manna Grass	3	X			X			X
Reed Grass	3	X			X	X		
Ribbon Grass	4	X	X		X	X		X
Switch Grass	3-5	X				X	X	X
Vines								
Boston Ivy	4	X	X			X	X	X
English Ivy	4	X	X	X		X	X	X
Sweet Pea	3	X	X			X	X	X
Virginia Creeper	3	X	X	X		X	X	X

See page 3, Terms & Abbreviations, for explanation of column headings



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FERNS



Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) Grows 1 to 2 feet. Evergreen fern with once-divided, leathery, dark-green foliage. Forms large clumps, 2 to 3 feet across. Good on rocky, woodland hillsides. Part-sun to shade. Moist, well-drained soil. **Zone 3 N**

Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) Grows to 3 feet. Vigorous, spreading to form large, vase-shaped clumps. Large, doubly-divided fronds are light-green in spring and dark-green by fall. Fertile fronds are fuzzy, cinnamon-brown. Very hardy. Full sun to shade. Moist, acid, highly organic soil best. Only tolerates full sun if plenty of moisture. **Zone 3 N**

Hay-scented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctiloba*) Vigorously spreading fern grows to 12 inches with light-green, finely-divided fronds. Foliage sweet-scented when crushed. Versatile fern grows in many soils and tolerates drought. Found in clearings and on rocky slopes. Part-sun to shade. Moist, well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. **Zone 3 N**

Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*) Grows 3 to 4 feet in large, vase-shaped clumps. Pale-green fronds not as deeply divided as Cinnamon Fern. Green, sterile portions of fronds are 'interrupted' along the stalk with brown, fertile portions. Part-sun to shade. Moist, acid soil. Good, woodland fern. **Zone 4 N**

Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) One of the only ferns offered in different varieties. Grows in clumps 2 to 3 feet tall with lacy, pale-green, arching fronds. Found in moist, partly-shady areas but tolerates more sun and dry soil than most ferns. Part-sun to shade. Moist, rich soil best. **Zone 4 N**

Ostrich Fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*) Known for its fiddleheads in the spring. Grows to 4 feet. Large, upright, coarse-textured fronds. Found in swamps and moist woods. Part-sun to shade. Rich, moist to wet soil. **Zone 3 N**

Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) Beautiful, stately, vigorous fern with branching, pale to bright-green fronds, depending on the amount of light. Grows 2 to 6 feet (tallest in wet conditions). Spreads slowly. Full sun to shade. Best in part-sun to shade. Wet soils but not submerged. **Zone 3 N**

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) Interesting fern with completely separate fertile fronds often used in dried arrangements. Grows 1 to 2 feet in moist soil. Fronds pale to deep-green and twice-divided with fertile fronds brown with persistent, bead-like spore cases along the stalk. Full sun to shade. Moist to almost wet soil. **Zone 3 N**



GRASSES



Bulrushes (*Scirpus* sp.) Many species of tall (4 to 6 feet high) grass-like plants with long, narrow leaves and striking flower heads; some with dark-brown 'spikelets' and others fluffy. Found in wet areas and shallow water. Full to part-sun. Wet soil, standing water. **Zones 3 to 4 N**

Bur-Reed (*Sparganium* sp.) A family of grass-like plants growing 1 to 4 feet high in shallow water with either upright or floating stems and long, narrow leaves. Flowers are greenish-brown and followed by a bur-like ball. Full to part-sun. Wet soil, standing water. **Zone 3 N**

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*) A versatile group of grasses; this species tolerant of dry, poor conditions. Long-lived, grows 3 to 6 feet tall with lush green leaves that turn red in fall and bluish-purple stems. Flower and seed heads branch into 3 parts. Needs extra care to get established but forms excellent cover once established. A common prairie grass. Full sun. Moist to dry soil. Tolerates poor, dry, sandy soil. **Zone 3 N**

European Dunegrass (*Elymus glaucus*) Native to western America. Grows to 2 feet. Vigorously spreading, ornamental grass. Good for erosion control on sandy, dune areas. Tolerates drought and salt. Good for bank stabilization. Highly aggressive. Blue-gray, arching foliage and green to yellow flower clusters in late summer. Full sun. Well-drained, sandy soil. **Zone 4**

Manna Grass (*Glyceria aquatilis*) Spreading, cultivated grass for damp areas. Grows to 3 feet with slender, arching, white and yellow variegated foliage. Native species grow in marshes, shallow water and wet areas. Full sun. Wet soil. **Zone 3**

Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) Also called Canada Bluejoint Grass. Other species and varieties are available. Grows 2 to 4 feet. A typical, upright, attractive grass. Spreads slowly to form clumps. Some varieties are more vigorous. Slender stems and flower heads. Does well in wet soil and is a good soil stabilizer. Full sun. Moist, fertile soil. Good near water. **Zone 3 N**

Ribbon Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* var. *picta*) Also called Reed Canary Grass. Cultivated from a native grass. Vigorous and ornamental with green and white striped, arching leaves and narrow clusters of flowers in summer. Can be invasive. Grows 2 to 3 feet. Does best in full sun and moist, fertile soil. Does well close to water. Tolerates some shade. **Zone 4 (N)**

Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) Several varieties. Grows 4 to 7 feet in thick, spreading clumps. Good for wildlife and birds. Typical long, narrow leaves and decorative, feathery flower heads. Holds shape throughout winter. Needs 1 or 2 years to become established. Full sun. Tolerates poor, acid, sandy, dry soil. Heat and drought tolerant. **Zones 3 to 5 N**



VINES



Note: The vines listed here are ones that make good ground covers in particular. There are many more climbing vines that could be added to a buffer simply for variation and to add dimension. Check for ones that do not overwhelm other vegetation.

Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata veitchi*) Dense, climbing or sprawling vine with maple leaf-shaped, glossy, dark-green leaves that turn crimson in the fall. Tolerates dry conditions once established. Sun to part-sun. Moist to dry soil. **Zone 4**

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) Low-maintenance, dense, evergreen vine with broad, glossy, dark-green leaves. Many varieties are available. It climbs things or trails along the ground. Sun to shade. Moist to dry soil. Tolerates some drought. **Zone 4**

Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) Vigorous, flowering vine good on rocky slopes. Easy to grow once established. Forms a 2 to 3 foot thick mat of vegetation making it good for erosion control on poor, sandy or rocky slopes. Also good food and cover for birds and wildlife. Typical pea-like vines and leaves and long-blooming, showy white to pink to red flowers. Blooms summer to fall. Sun to part-sun. Moist, well-drained soil best but tolerates poor, sandy, clayey soils. **Zone 3**

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) Also called Woodbine. Rapid growth. Spreads vigorously; can be invasive. Good as ground cover over rocky slopes. Deep-green, palmately-divided leaves turn crimson in fall. Bluish, black berries in fall. Good for birds. Sun to shade. Adaptable to most soils. **Zone 3 N**

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